THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Shikshak Palak Sangh

†4098. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been received from the Madhya Pradesh Government to increase the Centre's share in Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan from 75 per cent to 90 per cent besides providing money for training of 'Shikshak Palak Sangh';

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) Government's response thereto; and

(d) if Government's response is in negative, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) A request was received from the Madhya Pradesh Government for 100% Central support under Sarva Skiksha Abhiyan (SSA) or alternatively for changing the Centre-State funding pattern to 90:10 during the Tenth Plan and 85:15 pattern thereafter.

Training of Community organisation/members is part of the approvals given to Annual Work Plan & Budget (AWP&B) of Madhya Pradesh under SSA and funds allocated as per norms.

(c) and (d) Centre-State funding patterns are within the preview of the Planning Commission of India.

Cooperation with Afghanistan in Media and Information

4099. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has signed an MoU with Afghanistan on media and information;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India has committed on financial assistance also under this MoU; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement on the salient features of the MoU is enclosed (*See* below).

(c) No financial commitment has been made under the MoU.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

Salient Features of MoU signed between the Government of the republic of India and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan on Co-operation in the Field of media and information

Both the parties agreed to:

- Promote free flow of information, newspapers, periodicals, books and other publications.
- Increase cooperation amongst news agencies of the two countries.
- Facilitate travel for media persons.
- Hold regular conference of editors and working journalists of the two countries.
- Arrange regular exchange of TV and Radio programmes.
- Arrange training for media persons of Afghanistan in India.
- Hold regular meetings of heads of national TV/Radio organizations to review the working of the assistance projects undertaken by India *i.e.* Kabul T.V. Satellite uplinking-downlink facility, 100 K.W. S.W. transmitter and the renovation of the Jalalabad T.V. project and any other projects that may be undertaken in the area.

- For the establishment of an Afghan Academy of Cinema, India would extend support by providing long term and short term training in Indian academies to Afghan nationals in scriptwriting, direction, cinematography, editing and sound recording.
- The two countries would also make efforts to hold special screening of each other's films in their respective countries.

Uplinking FDI in News Channel

4100. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether television news channels with Foreign Institutional Investment can continue uplinking from India for another three months;

(b) if so, whether as per the uplinking guidelines only 26 per cent FDI is allowed in news channel;

(c) if so, the channels which would be benefited under three months extension;

(d) whether Government would take a call on whether to allow 3 FIIs separately;

(e) whether the industry expects Government to relax the guidelines and allow FIIs in the news channel; and

(f) if so, by when Government would finalise the decision?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) (a) The Government has extended the deadline upto 30th September, 2005 for the existing News and Current Affairs TV channels to comply with the eligibility criteria for uplinking of News and Current Affairs TV Channels from India.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The following companies are required to comply with the eligibility criteria within the extended period *i.e.* upto 30th September, 2005;

(1) Jeevan Telecasting Corporation Ltd.
(2) Jain Studios Ltd.
(3) Zee Telefilms Ltd.